

The Future of Economic and Trade Cooperation as Viewed from the Expansion of China and Japan’s “Belt and Road” Cooperation (Summary)

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This paper had the aim of revealing the factors behind Japan changing its position vis-à-vis the “Belt and Road” initiative, the potential for China–Japan cooperation, and the future prospects regarding relations between the two nations. In September and October 2013, when President Xi Jinping was on visits to Kazakhstan and Indonesia, he proposed the respective strategic concepts of the “Silk Road economic belt” and the “21st century maritime Silk Road”. Then in March 2015, the main content of the “Belt and Road” initiative—which was stated when the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Commerce jointly announced the “Vision and Actions on Jointly Building the Silk

Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road”—was explained in five key-terms: “communication of policy, mutual opening-up of facilities, flow of trade, circulation of capital, and interlinking of popular sentiment”. They should continue promoting the development of the two countries’ economies and trade, via furthering cooperation between Japan and China through the “Belt and Road” initiative in such fields as construction of infrastructure, logistics, cooperation on industrial capacity, trade, finance, and tourism, and closely linking the construction of the “Belt and Road” and Northeast Asian regional economic cooperation.

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